

FREMONT BOARD OF SELECTMEN**20 DECEMBER 2005****APPROVED 12/29/2005**

Present: Selectmen Gene Cordes, Donald W Gates jr, and Peter Bolduc; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

The Selectmen reviewed the final draft of the Highway Department budget, including capital reserve articles. The capital reserves will be proposed at the same levels of funding as 2005, the building at \$15,000 and equipment at \$7,500. The warrant article for road overlays is \$64,643 to do 2,000 feet each of North Road, South Road, and Sandown Road.

The Road Agent today had updated the sand line by an increase of \$600 to cover the cost of material to be purchased just into the new year.

The total highway operating budget request is \$295,515. Copies were made for the Budget Committee following the Selectmen's final review.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Selectmen reviewed minutes for 15 December 2005. They discussed some typographical errors in the minutes, which were corrected. Selectmen further discussed the upgrading of positions from part-time to full-time and the town's full-time employee hiring policy. With the corrections, motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Gates to approve the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

2. Selectmen reviewed a fax and bond release information for Tuck Woods Phase I. There are currently three items outstanding on the engineer's letter. Selectmen discussed at length the fact that the developer had asked the Town in good faith to accept the roads, and then failed to meet the written agreement in a timely fashion.

Selectmen discussed holding the bond as well as the amount of the maintenance bond recommended by the Town's consulting engineer. The Board decided to send a letter to Turner Porter indicating that because they had not met their agreement by the specified deadline that the Town was not yet ready to release the bond in full. They will be given until June 1, 2006 to have all improvements specified, complete and inspected. At that time, if not done, the town will pull the cash bond and complete the improvements. This letter will be drafted for consideration next week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed and approved the payroll manifest \$7,387.96 for the 2005 Rescue Squad points plan; and the accounts payable manifest \$31,193.43 for this week. Both were signed

2. Selectmen signed letters to Rescue Squad LOSAP recipients Brett Hunter, Kyle Murdock, Vickie Murdock, and Kevin Zukas.

3. Abatements processed by MRI and voted by the Board:

02-188.2-09	L/O Victoria Farm Road	Denied based on assessor recommendation
02-188.2-10	L/O Victoria Farm Road	Denied based on assessor recommendation
02-058	663 Main Street	Tabled pending further investigation

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4. Carlson shared with the Board a donation from Wagoner Engineering by way of oil gift certificates. These were donated to the welfare department.

At 7:00 pm Department Heads Neal Janvrin and Dick Heselton were present.

Janvrin said he is on vacation this week. He stopped at the station today, and the taser grant has been approved in writing already. This will go forward to Town meeting, so long as he can hold it open through Town Meeting. The grant is from the US Attorney's office. Selectmen discussed simply holding a 31:95-b hearing to accept and expend grant money for this item, and not put a warrant article. The grant fully funds the purchase, and would simply require that a public hearing be held.

Selectmen discussed with Chief Janvrin the Town's policy surrounding hiring of full-time employees. There was discussion about the fact that two positions this year are being proposed to change from part-time to full time, and the town's procedure for full-time hiring. Janvrin said that he expected the town to follow that policy, and was prepared for that.

Going forward if the full-time positions get approved the process will be opened up to follow the full-time hiring policy, and it is viewed that incumbents will likely be very strong candidates for the positions.

There is a job description currently for the PD clerical position, which needs to be updated to include full-time. Janvrin said he would get that done. Selectmen said that Department Heads are integral to the recruitment, application, hiring and interviewing policy.

Janvrin said that one of the part-time employees who has been covering a lot of shifts, recently got a full-time job elsewhere, therefore his part-time shift availability is reduced. Janvrin said this is another scheduling dilemma.

Chief Heselton indicated that there had been a small accident with one of the trucks, causing about \$400 in damage. This happened at a serious motor vehicle crash on Route 111A last Saturday night.

Heselton discussed landing zones and looking into some other alternatives, as well as he may put his GPS unit in the utility truck. He said he thought the intersection of Frost Road and Spaulding Road would be a good location. Janvrin agreed, as there is underground power in the subdivision, and that intersection is clear.

Janvrin and Heselton left the meeting at 7:20 pm and Gates went out to the Budget Committee meeting.

At 7:30 pm Janice O'Brien and Kenn Jones met with the Selectmen to discuss the proposal for an open space bond on the 2006 Town Meeting warrant.

There was discussion about the Glen Oakes purchase which has now been completed. They are talking about some type of orientation to the property for Fremonters, as well as some press release information.

The Conservation Commission is looking at different signs to mark the property as well as the future of the property, including hiking trails and the like.

O'Brien said that they had also gotten the NROC grant and submitted a copy of the letter she had received about receipt of the grant. This is a service grant, with no dollars directly involved.

O'Brien said that the Open Space Committee has decided to move ahead with a \$1,000,000 bond issue for 2006. This will include the Smith properties at the Fremont/Brentwood line as well as other general properties. The appraisal has not come in yet on the Smith properties, but is expected by year end.

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Selectmen discussed what the selection criteria would be for the monies, as well as what the approval process would be for other lands selected to be used for funding possibility. Jones said he was working on refreshing that information and doing any necessary updates.

Bolduc said that the Smith land was likely superior land in terms of what the town is looking for, given its proximity to Spruce Swamp and neighboring conservation lands.

They said they are working on a draft document discussing goals and criteria to describe the Open Space Committee, what they are all about, and what their goals are. They said they are taking much of their information and reorganizing it, to give people a better idea about the committee and what they are working toward.

Selectmen discussed their thoughts on taxes and what people are currently paying for, but squared that off against the fact that in the long run, they feel this is the way for the Town to save money in the future.

The Smith property is approximately 80 acres as currently shown on the tax maps. This land abuts Spruce Swamp and portions of the Glen Oakes land. An appraisal is underway that will be funded by Fremont, Brentwood, and the Smiths. It is unknown at this time the value of the portions in Fremont.

Open Space Committee members continue to work on grant projects, and hope to be able to put at least the Smith project on the warrant as part of the \$1,000,000 funding; and any others which may fit in the Town's criteria and become identified in the coming weeks.

Cordes and Bolduc both indicated they were in favor of the bond article, knowing it was in the best long-term interest of the Town, but wanted to wait for a full board to make a decision about putting it on the warrant and a recommendation.

Jones and O'Brien scheduled time with the Board again at 7:30 pm on Thursday January 5, 2006. They left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

BUDGETS

Selectmen reviewed the draft of the government buildings budget, and made some recommendations for changes. The overall cost of increasing fuels is calculated at approximately 30%. Carlson indicated the budgets have been updated based on current expense detail, as well as the contract fuel rate of \$1.99 for oil through June 30, 2006. The total amount recommended for government buildings is \$78,520.00.

Gates returned from the Budget committee meeting at approximately 9:45 pm.

There was follow-up discussion to the Budget Committee meeting. Some errors were found in the spreadsheet and further updating of that was done. Carlson hopes to have the spreadsheet up to date with all town figures and mailed out to the Committee shortly.

Gates indicated that Holmes had removed the \$8,000 request for a front plow from his budget during their discussion this evening as he had located one in good shape at the highway shed. He indicated to the Committee that it would not cost any additional to convert this to a front line piece.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

6. Land Use Change Taxes processed and signed:

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01-038.09 backland no longer eligible \$0 tax due
 Penalty should have been assessed in 2001 but the transfer was not forwarded to the Town. Form has to be recorded to release the current use lien on the property. This is backland for a house on Compromise Lane in Sandown.

02-151.5	Kenniston Lane	\$14,000
02-151.5-2	Kenniston Lane	\$14,000

These forms were forwarded to the Tax Collector.

7. Selectmen discussed setting up meetings with Randy Grasso regarding his concerns over Seacoast Farms and trucking on Beede Hill Road; with Kyle Murdock regarding the Rescue Squad organization; and with Brett Hunter and Murdock regarding the points system and LOSAP program.

NEXT WEEK

All Town Offices are closed on Friday December 23 and Monday December 26, 2005 for the Christmas holiday.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday December 29, 2005 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Gates to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
 Town Administrator